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Student's Perception on Career Opportunities

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Abstract

Introduction: The wide variety of occupations requiring students awareness of their real possibilities and careful consideration to their choice.

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify which are the most interesting professions and occupations desired by students of the National University of Physical Education and Sport, Bucharest, Romania.

Method: In this research, the method used was based on questionnaire survey.

Results and conclusions: Students must keep in mind that a career is built through a solid, experience, diligence, commitment and continuous accumulation of information. Choice of job satisfaction comes from a realistic career decision and a thorough grounding in this regard. Choosing teaching career counselors over the years highlight the need to study.

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1. Introduction

There are actually a number of career paths available to physical education degree holders in the health, exercise and sports science field.

Some athletically gifted people are destined for a lucrative career in sports, but there also are plenty of sports jobs that do not take place on the court or field (Angst, 2013)

There are many jobs and career opportunities in fields related to sports and sports medicine. The two major specialty areas for those looking for a sports medicine career involve working with athletes or the general population to improve fitness and sports performance or to work with them to prevent or recover from sport injuries. (Quinn, 2011)

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Only the top athletes make it to the pros. Others who have an interest in sports find themselves pursuing careers in the industry, but not necessarily on the field or court. (Rosenberg) Students from sports and motor performance have many opportunities: coaching, officiating, training, weight training, sports agent, and athletic trainer/medical positions, scouting.

As career opportunities for students specializing in physical education and sports, note: researcher in physical education and sports, sports commentator radio/ television, physical education teacher in primary, secondary school, sports editor, advertising consultant sports equipment, consultant in fairs and exhibition themes.

For students from kinetotherapy and special motricity are a number of occupations that they may have university graduation including: physiotherapist in healthcare, health/rest /recovery, recovery centers masseur/recovery, expert reviewer to companies, associations, foundations and activities including medical rehabilitation, research assistant/ researcher in physical therapy and sports rehabilitation.

According to the study Recent graduates of higher education and market integration. An ACPART report, conducted by Voicu, Bush and Voicu (2010), we find that the reasons why most graduates of physical education and sports (57%) don't work in the field they are specialized because they have not found a suitable job specialization. 27% state that they have found a job more convenient, and 16% believe that jobs from their specialty were not according to their expectations. Also, in the same study, on page 106, stated the number of deals had graduates from physical education and sports in employment: 68% stated that they had had one job offer and 32% say they had several job offers. On distribution graduates in physical education and sports, depending on the type of company they work for, we find that 37% of them work in the public sector, 22% in the private Romanian, 1% in private companies with foreign capital, 5% in NGOs, 19% in other systems, and 31% do not work. (Stănescu, Ciolcă and Stoicescu 2011) In most cases, teaching career seems to be not attractive to most young people. But despite low wages and legislative dynamics in recent years, Romania is ranked top 2 in Europe in terms of teachers younger than 30 years, 20.6% of teachers in school education fits into this category. (Voicu, Tufiş and Voicu, 2010)

2. The purpose of the paper

The purpose of this paper is to observe which are the career opportunities for National University of Physical Educations and Sports Students and students' perception regarding this occupation. We are interested to see what occupation shows the highest degree of interest for each specialty of students, and which is the occupation that shows the least interest.

3. Research hypothesis

The education offer, presented on admission to the university helps students to choose careers in the future, forming their views on career opportunities. Each category of subjects has outlined a clear opinion on the occupations they attractive and wish to have.

4. Research subjects

The research includes 129 participants, students of the National University of Physical Education and Sports. Respondents are divided depending on the specialty:

- 51,9% students of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, of which 27,9% in physical education and sports, and 24% in sports and motor performance;
- 48.1% students of the Faculty of Kinetotherapy.

5. Research methods

Research is ascertaining type, using a questionnaire for each specialty. To illustrate the perception of respondents about various occupations, we have developed three different questionnaires, one for each specialty.

Each questionnaire includes occupations that students may have at graduation. These occupations are taken from the website of the National University of Physical Education and Sports and have been integrated into one questionnaire as follows: 21 occupations for students of kinetotherapy, 45 occupations for students of physical and sportive education and 44 occupations for students of sports and motor performance. For each occupation, students must choose one of the 4 possible answers depending on attractiveness: 1. Very interesting 2. Interesting 3. Less interesting 4. Not interesting. Next we illustrate for each category of students in part, the most interesting and least interesting occupation.

6. Research results

According to students from physical and sportive education, (Fig.1) the most attractive occupation in the opinion of most participating students (88,90%) is the physical education professor in primary, secondary, regular classes with sports profile (52,80% consider it very interesting, and 36,10% find it interesting). At the opposite pole is consultant organization stands, fairs and exhibitions (problematic sports and human performance, physical activities adapted sport for recreational purposes), 77,80% of respondents considering it unattractive (30,60% less interesting 47,20% find it uninteresting).

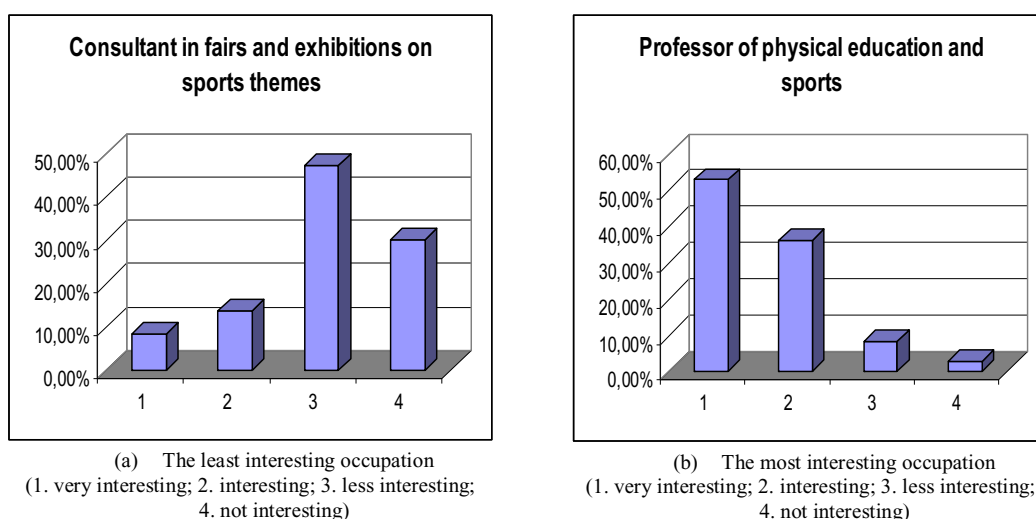


Fig 1. Student's perception from physical and sportive education about occupations

For students from sports and motor performance, (Fig 2) occupation regarded as the most interesting is the personal trainer, 96,70% of respondents considering it attractive (80,60% of respondents believe that it is very interesting, and 16,10% consider interesting) while sports news editor occupation is regarded as the least attractive work by 83,90% of respondents (51,60% consider it uninteresting, and 32,30% consider it less interesting).

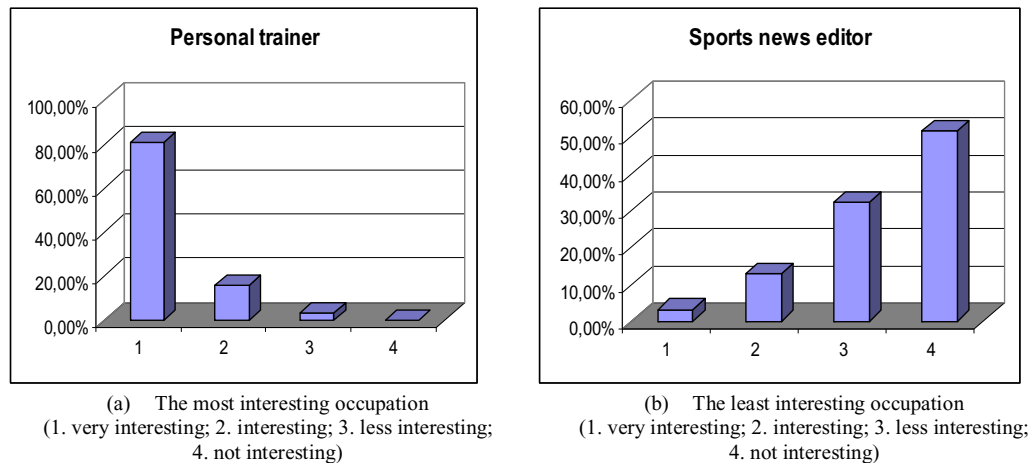


Fig 2. Student's perception from sports and motor performance about occupations

For students from Faculty of Kinetotherapy, (Fig. 3) kinetotherapist occupation in healthcare, health/ rest/ recovery is considered the most attractive, it obtained a share of 96,70% (30,60% is largely considered interesting, and 66,10% consider it very interesting). At the opposite pole is the occupation of physical activity consultant in care centres and elderly care, considered the least attractive by a percentage of 75,8% of the respondents (59,70% considering it less interesting, and 16,10% of respondents find it uninteresting).

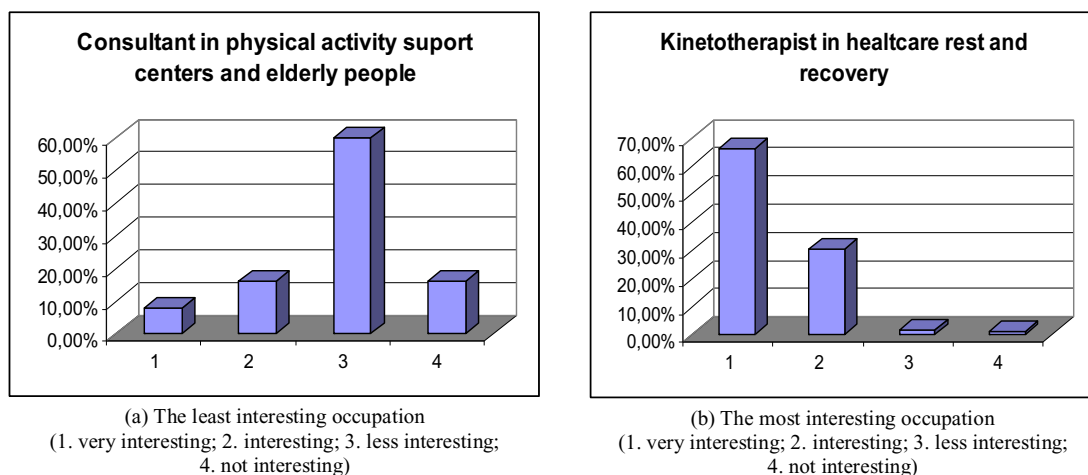


Fig. 3. Student's perception from kinetotherapy and special motricity about occupations

7. Conclusions

From the percentages of the most attractive and least attractive occupation we can deduce that each category of subjects has outlined a clear opinion on the occupations they wish to have.

Although the professions of physical education teacher, coach and kinetotherapist are vocational, we believe that an important contribution to career choice occupies CCOCP UNEFS (counseling and career guidance) by the

role and the activities carried out during the years of university studies and courses of psycho-pedagogical program, level I and II courses which guides the students to the teaching career.

Professional success is a complex structure, in addition to skills, interest and motivation are included. In some cases, the skills that are deficient may be offset by developing a greater degree of other qualities or a strong inclination for the work that turns in vocation. Knowledge of career opportunities for students is a starting point for initial and continuing training.

Therefore, the most interesting occupation for each specialization is: professor of physical education and sports – for students from physical and sportive education, personal trainer- for students from sports and motor performance and kinetotherapist in healthcare, rest and recovery. We recommend that the university to further support students in the process of making a realistic career decision, to provide professional counseling services, to analyze labor market, to identify new job opportunities for its students and graduates and to settle the partnerships with potential employers.

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